# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

## *Listing of Claims:*

1.      (Currently Amended) A method for using a plurality of error-detectable key fragments of an original license key string for authorizing use of software, comprising:

fragmenting the original key string into a plurality of key fragments;

calculating for each key fragment corresponding check data;

combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form said error-detectable key fragments;

at least one of calculating and retrieving from a dictionary a corresponding friendly key fragment for each of said error-detectable key fragments; and

combining each of said error-detectable key fragments and said corresponding friendly key fragment to form friendly error-detectable key fragments; and

generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment the first partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the corresponding check data.


2.      (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of user-entered key fragments;

using said corresponding check data of said received key fragments to detect whether said received key fragments were entered correctly; and

generating an error message when a received key fragment is inaccurate.

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3.      (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of user-entered key fragments;

using said corresponding check data of said received key fragments to detect whether the received key fragments were entered correctly; and

defragmenting the key data of the received key fragments into a reconstituted key string that is the same as the original key string.


4.      (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said defragmenting of the key data is performed when all received key fragments are entered correctly.


5.      (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

providing the reconstituted key string to a software package to enable use of the software package.


6.      (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

providing the reconstituted key string to a hardware component to enable use of the hardware component or a portion thereof.


7.      (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the key string comprises:

receiving the key string in computer-readable form from a key generator.


8.      (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing said error-detectable key fragments in human-readable form.


9.      (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form said error-detectable key fragments comprises:

combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-detectable key fragments.


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10.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each friendly error-detectable key fragment comprises at least one word.


11.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each friendly error-detectable key fragment is longer than the corresponding key fragment.


12.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-detectable key fragments comprises:

    using at least a portion of one of either said key fragment or said check data to index and select data from the dictionary to form at least a portion of said friendly error-detectable key fragment.


13.    (Previously Presented) A method for using a plurality of error-detectable key fragments of an original license key string for authorizing use of software, comprising:

    fragmenting the original key string into a plurality of key fragments;

    calculating for each key fragment corresponding check data; and

    combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form said error-detectable key fragments, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-detectable key fragments further comprises:

    generating a first partial friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment;

    generating a second partial friendly error-detectable key fragment from the corresponding check data; and

    generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the first partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the second partial friendly error-detectable key fragment.

14.     (Currently Amended) A method of segmenting a license key string for authorizing use of software into a plurality of error-correctable key fragments, comprising:

   fragmenting the key string into a plurality of key fragments;

   calculating for each key fragment corresponding error-correction data; and

   combining each key fragment with said corresponding error-correction data to for a plurality of error-correctable key fragments;

   at least one of calculating and retrieving from a dictionary a corresponding friendly key fragment for each of said error-detectable key fragments; ~~and~~

   combining each of said error-detectable key fragments and said corresponding friendly key fragment to form friendly error-detectable key fragments, wherein said error-correction data permits the identification of errors in said error-correctable key fragments; and

   generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment the first partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the corresponding check data.


15.     (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

   providing the plurality of error-correctable key fragments in human-readable form.


16.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

   receiving a plurality of user-entered error-correctable key fragments;

   identifying errors in each received error-correctable key fragment using said corresponding error-correction data in the received error-correctable key fragments; and

   defragmenting the key data of the received error-correctable key fragments into a reconstituted key string that is the same as the original license key string.


17.     (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

   generating an error message indicating said identifier errors in each received error-correctable key fragments.

18.    (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein generating an error message comprises:

generating an error message that identifies one or more portions of the received error-correctable key fragment that was entered incorrectly.

19.    (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

providing said reconstituted key string to a software package to enable use of the software package.

20.    (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

providing said reconstituted key string to a hardware component to enable use of the hardware component or a portion thereof.

21.    (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
receiving the original key string in computer-readable form from a key generator.

22.    (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the plurality of error-correctable key fragments comprise friendly error-correctable key fragments.

23.    (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein each friendly error-correctable key fragment comprises at least one word.

24.    (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein each friendly error-correctable key fragment comprises a greater number of characters than said corresponding key fragment.

25.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-correctable key fragments comprises:

using at least a portion of one of either said key fragment or said error correction data to index and select data from the dictionary to form at least a portion of said friendly error-correctable key fragment.

26.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

        receiving a plurality of entered friendly error-correctable key fragments each comprising
key data and corresponding error correction data;

        using said error correction data to detect errors in said corresponding key data; and

        generating an error message identifying said detected errors.


27.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

        receiving a plurality of entered friendly error-correctable key fragments each comprising
key data and error correction data;

        using error correction data to detect errors in said corresponding key data; and

        defragmenting correct friendly error-correctable key fragments to form a reconstituted
license key string.


28.     (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

        a computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions capable of
segmenting a key string for authorizing use of software into a plurality of error-detectable key
fragments, comprising:

        fragmenting the original key string into a plurality of key fragments; calculating for each
key fragment corresponding check data;

        combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form said error-
detectable key fragments, at least one of calculating and retrieving from a dictionary a
corresponding friendly key fragment for each of said error-detectable key fragments; and

        combining each of said error-detectable key fragments and said corresponding friendly
key fragment to form friendly error-detectable key fragments; and

        generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment the first
partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the corresponding check data.

29.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, further comprising:

      receiving a plurality of user-entered key fragments;

      using said corresponding check data of said received key fragments to detect whether
said received key fragments were entered correctly; and

      generating an error message when a received key fragment is inaccurate.


30.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, further comprising:

      receiving a plurality of user-entered key fragments;

      using said corresponding check data of said received key fragments to detect whether the
received key fragments were entered correctly; and

      defragmenting the key data of the received key fragments into a reconstituted key string
that is the same as the original key string.


31.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 30, further comprising:

      providing the reconstituted key string to a software package to enable use of the software
package.


32.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 30, further comprising:

      providing the reconstituted key string to a hardware component to enable use of the
hardware component or a portion thereof.


33.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein combining each key fragment
with its corresponding check data to form said error-detectable key fragments comprises:

      combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-
detectable key fragments.


34.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 33, wherein each friendly error-detectable
key fragment comprises at least one word.

35.    (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions capable of segmenting a key string for authorizing use of software into a plurality of error-detectable key fragments, comprising:

fragmenting the key string into a plurality of key fragments; calculating for each key fragment corresponding error-correction data;

combining each key fragment with said corresponding error-correction data to for a plurality of error-correctable key fragments, wherein said error-correction data permits the identification of errors in said error-correctable key fragments;

at least one of calculating and retrieving from a dictionary a corresponding friendly key fragment for each of said error-detectable key fragments;

combining each of said error-detectable key fragments and said corresponding friendly key fragment to form friendly error-detectable key fragments; and

generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment the first partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the corresponding check data.


36.    (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 35, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of user-entered error-correctable key fragments;

identifying errors in each received error-correctable key fragment using said corresponding error-correction data in the received error-correctable key fragments; and

defragmenting the key data of the received error-correctable key fragments into a reconstituted key string that is the same as the original license key string.


37.    (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, further comprising:

generating an error message indicating said identifier errors in each received error-correctable key fragments.

38.     (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein generating an error message comprises:

        generating an error message that identifies one or more portions of the received error-correctable key fragment that was entered incorrectly.

39.     (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 36, further comprising:

        providing said reconstituted key string to a software package to enable use of the software package.

40.     (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 36, further comprising:

        providing said reconstituted key string to a hardware component to enable use of the hardware component or a portion thereof.

41.     (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 40, wherein the plurality of error-correctable key fragments comprise friendly error-correctable key fragments.

42.     (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-correctable key fragments comprises:

        using at least a portion of one of either said key fragment or said error correction data to select data from a dictionary to form at least a portion of said friendly error-correctable key fragment.

43.     (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 41, further comprising:

        receiving a plurality of entered friendly error-correctable key fragments each comprising key data and corresponding error correction data;

        using said error correction data to detect errors in said corresponding key data; and

        generating an error message identifying said detected errors.

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44.     (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 41, further comprising:

        receiving a plurality of entered friendly error-correctable key fragments each comprising
key data and error correction data;

        using error correction data to detect errors in said corresponding key data; and

        defragmenting correct friendly error-correctable key fragments to form a reconstituted
license key string.


45.     (Previously Presented) A key fragment generator for segmenting a key string M

        authorizing use of software into a plurality of error- detectable key fragments,
comprising:

        a key fragmenter adapted to input the key string and produce key fragments;

        a check data generator configured to calculate check data corresponding to the key
fragments, wherein the check data can be subsequently used to detect if the corresponding key
fragment is entered incorrectly;

        a combiner configured to combine the key fragments and the corresponding check data to
provide the plurality of error-detectable key fragments; and

        a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments.


46.     (Previously Presented) The key fragment generator of claim 45, further comprising:

        a friendly key generator configured to convert error-detectable key fragments into

        friendly error-detectable key fragments by combining error-detectable key fragments and
friendly key fragments,

        wherein said friendly error-detectable key fragments are words recognizable by humans.

47.    (Previously Presented) A key defragmenter for combining a plurality of entered error-detectable key fragments into a reconstituted key string for authorizing use of software, each error-detectable key fragment comprising key data and check data, the key defragmenter comprising:

an error checker adapted to use the check data of at least one of the entered error-detectable key fragments to detect if the entered error-detectable key fragment is entered incorrectly;

an accumulator adapted to defragment the key data of the entered error- detectable key fragments into the reconstituted key string and provide the reconstituted key string; and

a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments.


48.    (Previously Presented) The key defragmenter of Claim 47, further comprising:

a friendly fragment converter adapted to convert friendly error-detectable key fragments into error-detectable key fragments by using friendly key fragments from the dictionary and to provide the error-detectable key fragments to the error checker.


49.    (Previously Presented) A key defragmenter for combining a plurality of entered friendly key fragments into a reconstituted key string for authorizing use of software, comprising:

a friendly fragment converter adapted to ascertain a key fragment, from which the entered friendly key fragment was calculated;

an accumulator adapted to defragment the ascertained key fragments into the reconstituted key string and to provide externally said reconstituted key string; and

a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments.

50.    (Currently Amended) A key fragment generator for segmenting a key string for
authorizing use of software into a plurality of error-correctable key fragments, comprising:

    a key fragmenter configured to fragment the original key string into a plurality of key
fragments;

    an error correction module configured to calculate error correction data corresponding to
each key fragment, wherein error correction data can subsequently be used to determine the
accuracy of the corresponding key data; and

    a combiner configured to combine each key fragments with its corresponding error
correction data to provide the plurality of error-correctable key fragments;

    a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments; ~~and~~

    a friendly key generator configured to convert error-correctable key fragments into
friendly error-correctable key fragments by combining friendly key fragments and error-
correctable key fragments, wherein said friendly error-correctable key fragments comprise
human-recognizable words<u>; and</u>

    <u>generating said friendly error-detectable key fragment from the key fragment the first
partial friendly error-detectable key fragment and the corresponding check data.</u>

51.    (Canceled).

52.    (Previously Presented) The key fragment generator of claim 50, further comprising:

    a confusability evaluator configured to evaluate confusability of one or more of the key
fragments and, based on the confusability, select an error correction algorithm from a plurality of
error correction algorithms.

53.     (Previously Amended) A licensing key defragmenter for combining a plurality of entered error-correctable key fragments into a reconstituted key string for authorizing use of software, each error-correctable key fragment comprising key data and error correction data, the key defragmenter comprising:

        an error correction module configured to use the error correction data to identify a portion of the entered error-correctable key fragment that was entered incorrectly;

        an accumulator adapted to defragment the key data of the entered error-detectable key fragments into the reconstituted key string and to provide the reconstituted key string; and

        a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments.


  54.   (Previously Presented) The key defragmenter of claim 53, further comprising:

        a friendly fragment converter adapted to convert friendly error-correctable key fragments into error-correctable key fragments by using friendly key fragments from the dictionary and to provide the error-correctable key fragments to the error correcting logic.


55.     (Previously Presented) A key fragment error detector for detecting an error in an entered licensing key fragment for authorizing use of software, the licensing key fragment comprising key data and error correction data, the error detector comprising:

        an error correction module configured to utilize the error correction data to determine whether the entered licensing key fragment has been correctly entered;

        an error message generator configured to provide to a user interface a message that identifies a portion of the entered key fragment that was entered incorrectly;

        a dictionary configured to provide friendly key fragments; and

        a friendly fragment converter adapted to convert friendly key fragments into key fragments and provide the key fragments to said error correction module.


56.     (Canceled).

57.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein each friendly error-detectable key fragment comprises at least one word.

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58.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein each friendly error-detectable key fragment is longer than the corresponding key fragment.


59.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein combining each key fragment with its corresponding check data to form friendly error-detectable key fragments further comprises:

using at least a portion of one of either said key fragment or said check data to select data from a dictionary to form at least a portion of said friendly error-detectable key fragment.